

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND P-16 ISSUES

Information

The Cabinet for Workforce Development has one of state government's broadest customer bases providing services for employers, job seekers, high school students, dislocated workers, adult learners, people with disabilities, the unemployed, and those with training needs. In Kentucky's areas of projected job growth for the next five years, 65 percent of these jobs will require some or extensive postsecondary education or employer training, and 16 percent will require at least a bachelor's degree. The cabinet must work with its P-16 partners to prepare, enroll, and graduate Kentuckians from postsecondary institutions.

The cabinet serves students through adult education and secondary technical programs, matches job seekers and employers who are recruiting employees, places people in job training programs, and helps people with disabilities to enter the workforce.

While the cabinet's services are geared toward helping people enter the workforce, the critical byproduct is that people's lives are improved. A high school dropout earns a GED, lands her first good job, and starts taking college courses. A person with a disability becomes self-sufficient because he was given the opportunity to prove himself in the workforce. A chronically unemployed Kentuckian finally receives training to find and keep a good job. A high school student excels in technical education and sets the direction for a future career.

Allen D. Rose, secretary of the Cabinet for Workforce Development, will discuss the cabinet's progress and challenges in developing the Commonwealth's workforce and its role in P-16 work.